

Tisbury Vision Planning Workshop II
Summery Observations: A Vibrant and Connected Town Center
Prepared by: Ben Robinson

This summary is based on the full transcription of the flip charts and worksheets completed at the second workshop. The full transcription is available at the Tisbury Planning Board.

Welcoming Gateways

1. Major Gateways into the town.

Gateway	Times mentioned
SSA	22
State Rd /Edgertown Rd intersection	9
5 corners	9
Municipal parking lot on Water St	6
Harbor	6
Beach Rd	6
State Rd & main St	6
Union St	5
Union St, Water St, & Main St	5
Main St	3
Owen park	3
State Rd	3
Drawbridge	2
Spring St	2

- **The following were mentioned by one individual:**

Lagoon pond Rd, End of Main St, Franklin St, Corner Park at CB Starks, Tisbury Wharf, Mansion House.

- The following list describes the ways to improve:

Most mentioned is better design and organizing. Improve overall maintenance. Improve wayfinding directions and signage. Improve landscaping. Make it easier to navigate via foot, more sidewalks. More places to sit and rest.

- The SSA and the area immediately around it were mentioned the most. The town needs to address the SSA's roles and responsibilities to the impact it has on the town center, better dialog and solution finding is needed in order to address the ways to improve the condition it creates in town.

2. Welcoming areas in town

Welcoming area	Times mentioned
Main St.	22
Library area to bank on Main St.	4
Streets west of Main St.	4
Mansion House	3
Union St	2
Front of Bunch of Grapes	2
Capawok area	2
Nat's Nook	2

- **The following received one mention:**
West Chop lighthouse, cemeteries, Hinkley's, harbor docks, wider sidewalks, more activities, dining, Veterans Park, year round stores, chamber booth by the beach, Post Office, Net Result, Owen Park, Black Dog campus, Mocha Motts.
- **The following list describes the welcoming characteristics:**
Nice landscaping, historic architecture, wide sidewalks, small shops, public gathering places, shade trees, flowers, views.

3. Unwelcoming areas in town

Unwelcoming area	Times mentioned
5 corners	13
SSA & Water St	11
Municipal parking lot, Stop & Shop, Police St.	9
Capawok, linden tree area	8
Beach Rd	5
State Rd & Edgartown Road intersection	3
Lack of parking	3
post office	2

- **The following were mentioned by one individual:**

New fire station, Norton lane to Water St, Upper State Rd, Mansion House, Bobs Pizza, Mad Martha's, Upper Main St, waterfront, empty stores, boarded up buildings, dark stores at night, car rentals, parking lots in front of stores, Lagoon Pond Rd near chicken alley, abandoned buildings, seasonally closed businesses, areas with no pedestrian access, dark Main St at night, Union St.

- **The following list describes the unwelcoming characteristics:**

Dangerous, unsafe, too many signs, overcrowded, congested no way to navigate by foot or bike, ugly, no planning, traffic, out of scale, lack of sidewalks and bike paths.

- **How can we improve:**

- o Understand the qualities of the welcoming areas, and work on ways to implement these characteristics into the unwelcoming areas
- o Address circulation patterns through the unwelcoming areas
- o Provide consistent signage, in the most limited way, don't overburden with too much visual information.
- o Create places for people to stop and orient themselves, rest and watch.
- o Adhere to traditional scales within the town.

Vibrant

1. Words and places that describe a vibrant downtown

Words or places	Times mentioned
Diverse, small, essential stores serving locals	13
Walkable and safe	9
Places to sit, converse, watch	7
People of all ages	7
Centered around a Main St	7
Diverse activities	7
Well landscaped, flowers, trees	6
Diverse dining places	5
Well maintained	5
Evening activities	5
Open friendly shops	4
Art galleries	3
Bunch of Grapes public space	2
Banners and good signs	2
An in town open market	2

- **The following were mentioned by one individual:**

Volunteers, Mad Martha's, intimate neighborhoods with activities, open movie theatre, more parking, focus on happy streetscape, William St, functional, Bunch of Grapes, Stop & Shop, Owen Park, Black Dog campus, improve the public space in front of Bobs Pizza, loosen alcohol rules, Mansion House & Copper Wok, Mocha Motts, Film Center.

2. Characteristics that contribute to vibrancy and how these can be achieved

Characteristics	Times mentioned
Pedestrian access	12
Inviting diverse storefronts	11
Places to meet, rest, sit	9
Energy, activities	6
Musical performances	5
Open coffee shops and cafes after 6pm	4
Year round businesses	4
Flowers, trees, landscaping	4
Welcoming, helpful residents	4
Clean and safe	4
Open markets, street vendors, farmers market	3
Ability to improve through identifying needed maintenance, public & private	3
Owen parks ability to cater to visiting boaters	3
Close off Main St to cars from time to time	2
Adherence to historical past	2
Movie theatre	2
Better parking management	2

- **The following were mentioned by one individual:**

Adult classes at night, more affordable housing, intimacy, art galleries.

- **Noticeable attributes to a vibrant downtown:**

- o Both lists top mentions were about a combination of diverse, small, purposeful businesses, walkable connections, and public places to rest and relax, converse and watch.
- o The area in front of Bunch of Grapes serves as a great representation of these characteristics, and was mentioned frequently.

- o Both scale and diversity add a visual density to a small geographical area.
- o Cleanliness and flowers, shade trees, and landscaping further create an inviting atmosphere.
- o Special events serve to create a sense of excitement to the area.
- **How can we improve:**
 - o Develop ways to increase the public spaces so people can sit, converse, relax and watch.
 - o Develop ways to help diversify businesses, protect the essentials.
 - o Work on opening up pedestrian pathways.
 - o Add landscaping, and shade trees.
 - o Look at the area in front of Bobs Pizza as an opportunity to create a welcoming public pocket park

Building on the Cultural District

1. How might the cultural district help support business?

How	Times mentioned
Informational, storytelling, signs, tours	9
Performances, events	8
Help develop underutilized places, improve neglected and rundown property	6
Tax incentives, affordable loans, and investments	4
Encourage foot traffic, and out of town parking	4
Visiting artists and housing for artists	4
Low cost venues for young adults	3
Turn the Capawok into an arts center	3
Make Boch property a park event space	3
More attention to harbor	3
Affordable in town housing	2

parking and parking shuttle	2
business hours	2
business art partnerships	2

- **The following were mentioned by one individual:**

Be careful that the arts district does not lead to gentrification, loss of the authentic, Mad Martha's is a travesty.

- **Ways in which we may begin to implement:**

- o Creating historic walking tours, providing public information about history.
- o Provide venues for events and activities.
- o Connecting the MV Museum into the town center.
- o Look at the Capawok as a public investment in an arts center